

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brain Drozd on 8/7/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. The following claims have been amended and all claims have been combined for the previous Restriction as a result all of the claims now relying on same patentable subject matter a complete list is provided below:

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A clamp comprising:

a first clamping jaw;

a support element to which said first clamping jaw is attached;

a clamp body having comprising:

a first slot through which said support element passes along a first direction, said first direction being a direction the support element moves to allow the first clamping jaw to move relative to a second clamping jaw;

a side portion that extends substantially parallel to said first direction; and

a second slot in the side portion facing that faces in a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, said first direction being a direction the support element moves to allow the first clamping jaw to move away

~~from a second clamping jaw;~~
a handle grip attached to said clamp body;
a braking lever engageable with the support element and movable between a braking position and a release position; and
a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an ear that extends through said second slot such that the ear moves in said second slot relative to said side portion wherein when the ear is configured to be actuated by a force applied to the ear such that the brake actuator moves the braking lever to said release position in said first direction.

2. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said braking lever is normally positioned so as to engage said support element so as to prevent said support element and said first clamping jaw from moving away from said second clamping jaw and allowing said first clamping jaw to move towards said second clamping jaw.

3. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein pressing of said ear of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

4. (Original) The clamp of claim 3, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

5. (Original) The clamp of claim 2, wherein pressing of said ear of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

6. (Original) The clamp of claim 5, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

7. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said clamp body comprises a third slot and said brake actuator comprises a second ear that extends through said third slot.

8. (Original) The clamp of claim 7, wherein pressing either said ear or said second ear along a pressing direction causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

9. (Original) The clamp of claim 8, wherein simultaneously pressing said ear and said second ear along said pressing direction prevents said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

10. (Original) The clamp of claim 8, wherein pressing either said ear or said second ear along a direction opposite said pressing direction prevents said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

11. (Original) The clamp of claim 8, wherein simultaneously pressing said ear and said second ear along a direction opposite said pressing direction causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

12. (Original) The clamp of claim 7, wherein said third slot faces in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

13. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said brake actuator has a trapezoidal shape.

14. (Original) The clamp of claim 13, wherein said brake actuator comprises a trapezoidal-shaped rib.

15. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said brake actuator defines an opening into which said support element is inserted.

16. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said clamp body comprises a recess and said brake actuator comprises an insertion member that is inserted within said recess.

17. (Original) The clamp of claim 16, wherein said clamp body comprises a second recess and said brake actuator comprises a second insertion member that is inserted within said second recess.

18. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, further comprising:

a trigger handle pivotably mounted to said clamp body; and
a driving lever that is movable to a first position where said driving lever engages said support element and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body,
wherein pivoting of said trigger handle causes said driving lever to move to said first position and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body.

19. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said support element comprises a rod.

20. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said support element comprises a bar.

21. (Currently Amended) A clamp comprising:

a first clamping jaw;
a support element to which said first clamping jaw is attached;
a clamp body having comprising:
a first slot through which said support element passes along a first direction, said first direction being a direction the support element moves to allow the first clamping jaw to move relative to a second clamping jaw;
a side portion; and
an opening defined by the side portion and facing that faces in a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction; and
a handle grip attached to said clamp body;
a braking lever engageable with the support element and movable between a braking position and a release position; and
a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an engagement element

that extends through said opening such that the engagement element moves in said opening relative to said side portion when the engagement element is actuated by a force applied to the engagement element such that the brake actuator moves the braking lever to said release position.

22. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said braking lever is normally positioned so as to engage said support element so as prevent said support element and said first clamping jaw from moving away from said second clamping jaw and allowing said first clamping jaw to move towards said second clamping jaw;

23. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 21, wherein pressing of said engagement element of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

24. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 23, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

25. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 22, wherein pressing of said engagement element of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

26. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 25, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

27. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said clamp body comprises a second opening and said brake actuator comprises a second engagement element that extends through said second opening.

28. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 27, wherein pressing either said engagement element or said second engagement element along a pressing direction causes said braking lever

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to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

29. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 27, wherein said second opening slot faces in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

30. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said engagement element comprises a conical-like surface.

31. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 30, further comprising a spring that biases said engagement element to a position where said engagement element does not engage said braking lever.

32. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 27, wherein said engagement element comprises a first conical-like surface and a first neck; and said second engagement element comprises a second conical-like surface and a second neck that is inserted into said first neck.

33. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 32, further comprising a spring that is inserted into said first neck and said second neck.

34. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 33, wherein said spring expansively engages both said engagement element and said second engagement element.

35. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 21, further comprising:

a trigger handle pivotably mounted to said clamp body; and

a driving lever that is movable to a first position where said driving lever engages said support element and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body,

wherein pivoting of said trigger handle causes said driving lever to move to said first position and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body.

36. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said support element comprises a rod.

37. (Presently Presented) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said support element comprises a bar.

38. (Currently Amended) A clamp comprising:

a clamping jaw;

a support member to which said clamping jaw is attached;

a clamp body having comprising:

a channel through which said support member passes along a first direction, said first direction being a direction the support member moves to allow the first clamping jaw to move relative to a second clamping jaw,

a side portion that extends substantially parallel to said first direction,

a first slot that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, and

a second slot in the side portion that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction;

a handle grip attached to said clamp body;

a braking lever engageable with the support member and movable between a braking position and a release position; and

a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises a first side, a second side, a first ear that extends through said first slot, a second ear that extends through said second slot, a first rib that is associated with said first ear, and a second rib associated with said second ear;

wherein said first ear comprises a front face on the first side of said brake actuator and a rear face on the second side of said brake actuator;

wherein said second ear comprises a front face on the first side of said brake actuator and a rear face on the second side of said brake actuator;

wherein in response to the front face of said first ear being pressed and the front face of said second ear being unpressed, only said second rib actuates said brake braking lever to said release position; and

wherein in response to the rear face of said first ear and the rear face of said second ear being pressed substantially simultaneously, said first and second ribs actuate said brake braking

lever to said release position.

39. (Currently Amended) A clamp comprising:

a housing ~~including an upper portion comprising and a lower portion, said upper portion having a channel formed therein through which said support member passes along a first direction and having a slot that faces in a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction;~~

~~a support member slidably received in said channel of said housing so that said support member moves along said channel in said first direction;~~

a handle grip attached to said ~~lower portion of said clamp~~ housing;

a braking lever that is releasably engaged with said support member and movable between a braking position and a release position; and

a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an ear that extends through said slot;

wherein said brake actuator is allowed to pivot around an axis that is substantially parallel to the brake lever such that when the brake actuator is actuated by applying a force to the ear, the brake actuator moves the braking lever to said release position.

40. (Currently Amended) A clamp comprising:

a clamping jaw;

a support member to which said clamping jaw is attached;

a clamp body having comprising:

a channel through which said support member passes along a first direction, wherein said first direction being a direction the support member moves to allow the clamping jaw to move relative to the clamp body;

a side portion that extends substantially parallel to said first direction; and

a slot that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, wherein said first direction being a direction the support element moves to allow the first clamping jaw to move away from a second clamping jaw;

a handle grip attached to said clamp body;

a braking lever engageable with the support element and movable between a braking position and a release position; and

means for tilting said braking lever relative to said support member and comprising an ear that extends through said slot[[;]] such that the ear moves in said second slot relative to said side portion when the ear is actuated by a force applied to the ear such that the tilting means moves the braking lever to said release position.

wherein said ear is actuated via a force that is applied to said ear in said first direction.

41. (Currently Amended) A clamp comprising:

a movable and clamping jaw;

a support member connected to said jaw;

a clamp body having comprising:

an upper portion having a channel through which said support member passes along a first direction and having a slot, said first direction being a direction the support member moves to allow the movable jaw to move relative to the clamping jaw,

a lower portion, and

a side extending from said upper portion to said lower portion;

a handle grip attached to said lower portion of said clamp body;

wherein the slot is disposed in the side, the slot facing in a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction;

a braking lever engageable with the support member and movable between a braking position and a release position; and

a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an ear that extends through said slot;

wherein said ear translationally moves from one edge of the slot to an opposite edge of the slot to move the braking lever to said release position;

wherein said ear is only capable of actuation from said side;

wherein said lower portion is orientated in a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction; and

wherein said slot faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said second direction and substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a. The present invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious because the clamp body has a slot in which the brake lever protrudes out of and moves in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of a first clamping jaw. Furthermore, the brake mechanism is placed on the side of the body which is reverse for the front of the body which is established by the prior art and allows for the device to be grasped and actuated with the hand and the brakes is reached while being grasped with the thumb.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEE D. WILSON whose telephone number is 571-272-4499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MONICA CARTER can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ldw

/LEE D WILSON/
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